

Good morning and thank you for taking time for visiting our border community. I was born and raised in a border town, Douglas Az. my family first arrived in Douglas in the early 1920's and have always been active members of the community. When you come to our town I hope you see security through our eyes, those of us who live and work every day miles from Mexico. I understand the need for more security away from the ports of entry but we cannot let that affect the legal crossing of goods and people. As I have often heard we need high fences and wider gates we also need to talk about making it more efficient and easier to trade goods and services with Mexico. Total U.S. goods trade with Mexico in 2013 equaled \$506.6 billion and growing at close to 5%. Mexico is the third ranked commercial trading partner with the U.S. and the second largest market for U.S. exports. Trade with Mexico sustains six million jobs in the United States. Sales to are larger than all U.S. exports to Brazil, Russia, India and China combined. Twenty two states count Mexico as their No. 1 or 2 export market and a top five market to 14 other states. For every dollar Mexico makes from exporting to the U.S., it will in turn spend 50 cents on U.S. products or services, which helps our struggling economy. In May of 2010 the U.S. and Mexico signed the 21st Century Border Management Joint Declaration recognizing the importance of developing a modern secure border infrastructure to make us both more competitive in the global economy. Our ports are antiquated and we do not have the staffing to support the growing trade and border crossers at our southern ports of entry. We have struggled and are making due with the limited resources yet we will not be able to handle the projected growth without more bodies and money in our ports. Border towns have been ignored for many years even though we provide access one of the fastest growing economies in the world. China is starting to have better relations with Mexico and is one of our biggest competitors for the burgeoning economy. We need to view the southern border as an asset and not a liability.

Locally in Douglas our current port was built in 1936 with minor upgrades done in 1993. We have outgrown the facility and put the officers and people crossing at risk. If there is ever a chemical spill at our port we do not have a hazmat facility that could control such a spill. We have trucks waiting for extended periods of time polluting the air with their exhaust. We do not have the modern equipment to inspect trucks because of a lack of funding and space. Douglas is considered a small port of entry and yet over \$1.5 billion worth of merchandise crosses our port on a yearly bases and that number is growing at about 5% over the last 5 years. We have seen growth in the maquiladora industry of about 40% in the past year on the Mexican side and are starting to experience similar growth in Douglas. These are good jobs for our community.

The cattle industry is huge in the Mexican state of Sonora, in Douglas alone we cross about 1500 head of cattle a day in the peak season of November through May. These cattle are headed for states in the Midwest for fattening and eventually to be served in our restaurants. We currently have a dirt road providing access to the cattle pens which is not maintained and many times washes out in the rainy season. This equates to over \$2 million a day in cattle crossing, supporting the American appetite for beef. We could use some investment in the infrastructure for this valuable cattle crossing.

We also need help in streamlining the process in which Mexican citizens have the ability to obtain a B1/B2 Border Crossing Card (B1 Visitor for Business and B2 for Visitor) visa to come to the United States to shop and visit our communities. As a community in Arizona we rely heavily on sales tax for city

services. About 65% of our general funds come from sales tax revenue and 80% of our sales come from Mexico. We are very fluid communities both depending on each other for survival, meaning efficient cross border crossings is important. Our ports of entry are not designed for south bound inspections which have been enforced within the last 6 years. We put not only the inspectors at risk but also the citizens who have to wait in line for several hours to travel what may be a mile. We have no efficient system in place to see who is crossing southbound. This truly discourages people from travelling into both our communities affecting local commerce on both sides of the border.

There is a net loss in net migration according to the Pew institute. I truly believe that most Mexicans want to live in Mexico but come to the U.S. to earn a decent living, as the Mexican economy is growing we are seeing more Mexican citizens staying home. We are seeing the drug traffic increase and the number of human smugglers is decreasing. I hope that you leave here today realizing that the border is an asset to our country and that it needs investment in many areas, we have contributed much to the U.S. economy and feel that we deserve some investment. We would like to have more of a voice in decisions being made and we thank you for taking the time to coming here and listening.